

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Community Focus Group: Bayview/Hunter's Point YMCA
San Francisco, California
May 22, 2008**

Question 1

1. Which of the following strategies should be a higher priority?	
A. Spending transportation funds to maintain the existing system of roads and the existing bus, rail and ferry services in the region	5
B. Spending transportation funds to build new roads and add more bus, rail and ferry services in the region	10

- Transportation we have now is ok, but it needs to be improved. Bumpy streets, islands, need to be improved.
- If you don't maintain what you already have you lose it all.
- All of the money that they've spent is taken, why buy something new? Spend it to keep what we have.
- Change is good. Good things are built on change. Change brings growth. Things need to be upgraded. Old things need to be fixed and buy new things with new designs. Upgrades provide safety.
- Change is good. Creates jobs.
- Few shops, buses take forever to come. More buses would be good. Elderly need to be able to go shopping, be independent, have dignity. Need better transit to have independence.
- Gas prices are high; we need better systems of transportation. Rail, ferries: that money could go to making better systems. Gas is \$133/barrel; we need to think in terms of better systems that take alternate fuel, more fuel-efficient, etc.
- We will need more and better transit systems since we will have so many more people in 25 years.

Question 2

2. How much of the \$30 billion dollar budget should be spent on maintaining local streets and roads, state highways, and public transit systems?	
A. Up to 25% (\$7.5 billion)	9
B. Up to 50% (\$15 billion)	2
C. Up to 75% (\$22.5 billion)	0
D. 100% (\$30 billion)	4

- 25% would be good. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket. \$7.5 B should be just enough to complete the maintenance we need. We have other programs we need to fund. We need the left over money to pay for them.
- If we put all of our money in maintaining the roads and streets, we would have nothing left. If we have beautiful roads, we would have nothing to put on them.
- More than 25% (50%). Given the big boom of housing, with gay marriage being legal, they are all coming here. More people will come and we need more transportation to serve them.
- Trolley poles need to go. Wastes time when they need to stop light rail to put them back on.

Question 3

3. If you didn't spend all \$30 billion dollars on maintenance projects, where would you spend the rest of the funds?

Transportation to community programs. The youth is our future. If the youth is on the streets, they get in trouble. But, if they have their own transportation to go from school to programs most likely we have a better chanced to get the kids to focus on positive things. To and from food stores to home. Make life better for community.

High-speed rail to L.A.

Community transportation. Vans for new programs, youth and grassroots programs.

75% of new roads, new routes, new ferries.

Emissions reduction, air quality. Put money to programs that support those goals. We need to think about the air that we breathe.

10 yrs from now, this community won't be what it is today. The light rail isn't for the people here today; it's for the people who are coming. They know what they're bringing in; they know what's coming. We have to upgrade to what we are going to.

Who is going to be here? Who is coming? And why aren't we going to be here? Look at Walgreen's and Foodco and see who's coming. That's what to look at. Are we afraid of change? Look at the kids, they aren't looking for work, know how to read, etc. We need to look at the root of the problem. Kids have a future, need education. We need to make our priorities right. They need to take the step first. There is a lot here....

Given the pollution and air in this community...emissions reduction is very important in this community. We need to clear the air...asthma is high. Future of this community, some have moved on and are doing well, they want to come back. They want to take their community back. Where are the youth going to go? They should be able to go.

Youth don't know how to write and read, people are going to return to CA. Our same community will be back. Investing in transportation for our community will help to ensure that the community will be strong.

John Foran Fwy being built and we don't know about it. MTC must know about it. We need to know.

If you are going to be part of the community, you should know what is going on in the community. This community is not included in the decisions that go on around them. Safety is important.

Question 4

4. Which of the following projects should be a higher investment priority for the region's transportation system?	
A. Spending transportation funds on the highway system to relieve traffic congestion, including ramp metering, high-occupancy toll lanes, etc.	5
B. Spending transportation funds on public transit options, including rail and buses to provide alternatives to driving	8
C. Spending transportation funds on walking paths and bicycle lanes to provide alternatives to driving	2

- I picked C. I like walking and bicycling. Not everyone has a car.
- I chose B. People who have money use the highways. The people who don't have money will be safe if public transit is funded. Really good transportation will ensure that people will be able to get to work. If you are a mother with four kids, you need public transport.
- Congestion needs to be improved. People in the community have illnesses related to congestion, air quality issues.
- A is best. Funds made from HOT will go back to community, which is good. On another note, why didn't they notify the community that they are naming the freeway something?
- I chose B. San Francisco has the best public transport system. SF always has the best. Cheap, convenient, fewer transfers. Public transport needs to be the focus. Freeways so small, metering wouldn't do any good.

Question 5

5. What's the one improvement that could be made to public transportation that would increase ridership?
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- Safety (2 people said this).
- Being on time.
- More frequency.
- Some buses are back-to-back and then nothing. We need consistency so that we can rely on it (transit).
- I would like to see a transportation system (e.g., TransLink®) that allows you to transfer between systems.
- If you invest in the community, no charge to seniors, more would want to ride. If you would invest in the community, to the children, then it would be better. Seniors have fixed incomes.
- More availability for seats for parents with little children. We have seats for seniors, but we need some for mothers. They have to stand with small children.

Question 6

6. Which of the following should be a higher priority?	
A. Providing more transportation funds to communities that are planning to build more housing along BART and other public transit lines	6
B. Providing transportation funds evenly to communities regardless of where they are planning to build homes	8

- Evenly. Even if you have a home, your car could break down. You need to be close to transit.
- A because things are changing. BART is the main source of transport from the airport to your home, work, etc. BART plays an important role in transportation.
- B because if you allocate money to focused growth communities, smaller communities will be forgotten.

Question 7

7. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "There should be a subsidy for low-income riders."	
A. Strongly Agree	10
B. Agree	2
C. Neutral	1
D. Disagree	2
E. Strongly Disagree	0

- Strongly agree. We have something for youth and seniors. A system would need to be set up to be able to determine who is low income.
- I agree, mostly seniors on a fixed income. Their age alone, they have worked hard to earn a discount.
- I disagree....it's like a person who gets on public transportation. Why do they have to use a discount. Everyone should be carrying the same pass. He thinks that a different pass would brand the poor. That would be bad. They would have to be the same.
- It's time for a change. Everyone should pay his or her way. If we continue with the "poor" mindset, it continues it. I disagree with it.
- Strongly agree. Low-income families have overwhelming situations...if a family has five kids, not buying transit passes have consequences. Not riding transit can really affect a family. Kids would be embarrassed not having a pass.

Question 8

8. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: <i>"I favor basing all transit fare subsidies on income rather than age or disability."</i>	
A. Strongly Agree	6
B. Agree	2
C. Neutral	0
D. Disagree	3
E. Strongly Disagree	2

- Strongly agree because seniors who are on a fixed income need help. Some mother's don't have \$1.50 to give their kids for the bus. Relieves some of the pressure.
- I disagree. We are still not looking why this is coming in effect. This is going to benefit the people who can afford to be here. People with money who are going to live in Bayview don't or won't ride the bus.
- If everyone can have a Fast Pass, then we can teach the children to be above board. They won't board via the back door if they have a proper Fast Pass.
- I don't care if the Martians move here, we can get along. We all need to get along. Are these projects going to benefit the current residents? That's what's important. You must believe in change. We are putting our foot on our kids, we need to help kids.
- Some agree, some disagree, but all want the best for the community, disagree how to get there.

Question 9

9. Which of the following should be a higher priority?	
A. Reducing tailpipe emissions and encouraging alternatives to driving, such as public transit, bicycling, walking, etc.	4
B. Reducing traffic congestion and improving traffic flow to make it easier to drive around the Bay Area	11

- A: Reducing tailpipe emissions and encouraging alternatives to driving ...**
- Keep the traffic moving. Reducing emissions by keeping the cars going. We can't beat it, so let's keep it moving.
- B.: Reducing traffic congestion and improving traffic flow**
- Move the most people in the least environmentally destructive way.

- Let's encourage people to take transit, bike. Cut down on exhaust. Sometimes I have to close my windows because the exhaust is so strong. It stinks.
- Smoke comes out of cars and goes up the hill and we inhale all of that.
- Burn more gas, air is bad with exhaust.

Question 10

10. Which programs do you think are most effective to reduce the amount of emissions? (Select as many as you think will reduce emissions.)	
A. Subsidize purchase of newer/cleaner vehicles	8
B. Provide more/cheaper public transit	5
C. Develop awareness campaign to encourage people to reduce fossil fuel use	6
D. Build more bike paths and sidewalks	5
E. Funding incentives to cities to allow more development near transit	3
F. Support local traffic signal timing coordination	7

- Go with all of the above. Everything would help. We need to deal with that all. Bike lanes help your health.

Question 11

11. How much of the \$30 billion dollar budget should be spent on maintaining local streets and roads, state highways, and public transit systems?	
A. Up to 25% (\$7.5 billion)	8
B. Up to 50% (\$15 billion)	3
C. Up to 75% (\$22.5 billion)	1
D. 100% (\$30 billion)	2

Question 12

12. Thinking ahead to the year 2035, if you had \$30 billion, how much would you spend on each of the following projects to prepare for our regional transportation needs? To make it simpler, let's change the \$30 billion to \$30. Out of the \$30, please fill in the dollar amount you would spend for each area.	
A. Maintenance of existing roads and systems	\$88
B. Relief of traffic congestion	\$88
C. Provide transportation funds to cities that develop housing near transit	\$61
D. Provide access to public transit systems for all Bay Area residents	\$132
E. Reducing automobile emissions	\$81

- I would split it. I would give every group 1/5.

Question 13

13. Would you favor pursuing new revenues to increase the funding?	
A. Yes	14

B. No	0
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Question 14

14. Which of the following new revenue sources would you support? (<i>Multiple answers ok</i>)	
A. Regional gas fee	2
B. Higher bridge toll	2
C. Road tolls	1
D. Vehicle registration fees	1
E. County transportation sales taxes	3
F. Other new revenues	8
G. No new fees or increases	0

Tax the gas companies.